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YMCA

Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal

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MONTREAL YMCA TACKLES
ROOT SOURCES OF UNREST

A many-front confrontation with some of the root sources of today's unrest is being readied by the Montreal YMCA, R.G.Rogers, general secretary, told the 116th annual meeting of the association.

"Many of the key areas of concern have been identified, and our resources are being deployed to grapple with them", he said.

According to Mr.Rogers, 'involvement' seems to be one of the YMCA's main themes for the months ahead.

"We are increasing our services to, and involvement with, the French-speaking community. We are becoming more involved on a front-line basis with social and community problems. We expect to become increasingly involved in co-operative ventures with other organizations."

Flexible programs have also been developed to involve family units in leisure-time and recreational activities which, while encouraging individual development, promote understanding and communications between different age groups.

Detached work programs, set up to establish contact and re-involve alienated or apathetic young people with society, are also being expanded. Emphasis here is on face-to-face involvement with individuals or groups ---- on street corners, in restaurants, shopping centres, bowling alleys and other such common youth meeting places.

Beneficial influence of coffee houses and drop-in centres that are operated by and for teen-agers -- on their terms -- is also spreading. This in turn re-emphasizes the desire of young people for a say in the decisions affecting them.

Mr. Rogers noted that the Metropolitan YMCA has established broad objectives, is handling overall planning and will serve as an information clearing house.

"But the action is decentralized through our eight branches and our camps", he emphasized. "Working within broad Metro policy, each operating unit has set its own priorities and is developing the programs most needed in the communities they serve."

While exploring and developing new areas of service, the Y is also up-dating its traditional programs of self-development, leadership training and physical education.

"Our history shows clearly that the ability to identify, participate in and lead the way towards solutions to contemporary problems has long been one of the most important strengths of the Y", commented Mr. Rogers.

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